

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2005, in which the Examiner issued an election/restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121. The Examiner considers the application to contain three groups of patentably distinct species. He required the applicants to identify one species from each group, and provide a listing of all claims readable on the elected species.

Applicants elect to proceed in this application with the species shown in Fig. 29 from Group I (barrier unit) and Fig. 23 (coupler), and have cancelled claims as noted above pending a decision by the Examiner on the allowability of the generic claims. Claim 42 directed to the species in Group III has been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-15, 19-28 and 43-50 read on the species of Fig. 29, and Claim 16 reads on the species of Fig. 23.

Claims 1, 7 and 15 are generic to the species in Figs. 21, 26, 27 and 29. In the event of the allowance of any of the generic claims 1, 7 and 15, all of the species depicted in Figs. 21, 26, 27 and 29 are properly included in a single application. At that time, claims 6, 9 and 29-41, which are not considered to read on the elected species of Figs. 29 and 23, but do read on one or more of the species shown in Figs. 21, 26 and/or, 27, should be reinstated in the present application. Additionally, since claim 17 directed to the species of Fig. 24 and claim 18 directed to the species of

Fig. 25 depend from generic, independent claim 15, allowance of such claim 15 requires reinstatement of claims 17 and 18 into the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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